

Appl. No. 10/810,072
Amdt. Dated November 4, 2005

Attorney Docket No.: NSL-030
Reply to Office Action of August 8, 2005

REMARKS:**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

The Applicants submit that the amendments to the specification merely insert updated application serial number, publication number and patent number information and otherwise 5 improve readability of the amended sections. Also, at page 8, line 30 "stoichiometry" has been corrected to --stoichiometry--. As such, no new matter has been added.

In addition, at page 9, line 31, "10/429,261" has been changed to --10/403,997, now US Patent 6,936,761--.

The Applicants submit that this amendment also corrects a minor typographical error. The 10 Applicants further submit that the typographical nature of the error is apparent from the fact that the serial number 10/403,997 has been assigned to the application titled "IMPROVED TRANSPARENT ELECTRODE, OPTOELECTRONIC APPARATUS AND DEVICES" that is referred to in the amended paragraph as originally filed. As such, no new matter has been entered with this amendment.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

To expedite prosecution, the Applicant has canceled claims 16-17, added new claim 18, and 15 amended claim 1 to recite that the optoelectronic devices are photovoltaic devices in the preamble and to insert --photovoltaic device-- between "layered" and "structure" in line 2. Support for this feature may be found in the specification at page 8, line 19 to page 9, line 10. 20 As such, no new matter has been entered with these amendments. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of claims 1, 61-17 in a later-filed continuation or divisional application. Support for new claim 18 can be found in the specification at page 4, lines 1-21 and FIG. 1A. As such, no new matter has been entered with this amendment.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC 103

25 Lee in view of Cok

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Publication 20030189215 to Lee et al. (hereinafter Lee) in further view of US Patent Publication 2004003220 to Cok et al (hereinafter Cok). In rejecting the claims it is stated that Lee discloses manufacturing optoelectronic LED devices by forming a layered structure having a plurality of 30 layers (Fig. 12) including a bottom electrode layer (#128), a top electrode layer (#160), and one

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or more active layers (#126) between the top and bottom electrode layers; cutting through one or more of the layers of the layered structure to divide the layered structure into one or more separate device sections (Fig. 4). It is further stated that Lee teaches that each section has a portion of the active layer disposed between portions of the top and bottom electrode layers (Fig. 5 4) and that Lee further teaches an unpatterned device followed by cutting at least to the substrate of the LED device. It is admitted that Lee fails to teach assembling two or more device sections into a module; and electrically connecting the bottom electrode layer portion of one device section to the top electrode layer portion of another device section in a serial fashion. It is argued that Cok teaches a LED device where the bottom electrode layer portion of one device 10 section is connected to the top electrode layer portion of another device section in serial fashion. It is concluded that it would have been obvious to modify the LED device of Lee in favor of the serial process of Cok with the goal of producing individually series connected LEDs which together are supplied by one source.

15 The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the optoelectronic devices are photovoltaic devices. The Applicant submits Lee and Cok are devoid of any teaching or suggestion of photovoltaic devices as set forth in claim 1. As such, neither no any combination of Lee and Cok teaches or suggests all the features of claims 1-15 and a prima facie case of obviousness is not present. The rejections of claims 16-17 are moot in view of their cancellation.

20 NEW CLAIM 18

The Applicant submits that new claim 18 depends from claim 1 and is distinguishable over Lee in view of Cok for the same reasons set forth above. In addition, the Applicant submits that claim 18 recites placing strips of short proofing material between the top electrode layer and the one or more active layers *before* cutting the layered structure. Lee, by contrast teaches forming 25 trenches 130 through layers 128, 126, 124 and partially into layer 122 (see FIG. 4 and paragraph 0034) and subsequently filling the trenches with the passivation layer 162 (see FIG. 13 and paragraph 0047). Thus Lee teaches providing short proofing *after* cutting a layered structure. The Applicant submits that Cok is devoid of any teaching or suggestion of the features of new 30 claim 18. As such, the combination of Lee with Cok does not teach, and in fact teaches away from, the invention as set forth in claim 18. Therefore, for at least this additional reason, the Applicant submits that new claim 18 defines an invention suitable for patent protection.

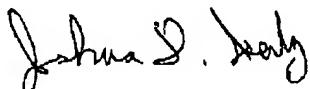
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CONCLUSION:

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants submit that all claims are allowable over the cited art and define an invention suitable for patent protection. The Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner enter the amendment, reconsider the application, and issue a Notice of Allowance in the next Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



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